

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 020968
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-02 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY OSD/ISA:JSIENNA
APPROVED BY EUR: MR. VEST
DOD/DA: MR. ALEXANDER
OD/ISA: MR. MCGIFFERT
PM:JHHAWES (SUBST)
UR/RPM:SJLEDOGAR
S/S-O:JETHYDEN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE
WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 020968

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: NATO, MPOL

SUBJECT: TANK GUN

REF: BONN 01427 (NOTAL)

YOU SHOULD DELIVER THE FOLLOWING LETTER FROM SECRETARY
OF THE ARMY ALEXANDER TODEFENSE MINISTER LEBER AS SOON
AS POSSIBLE.

BEGIN TEXT.

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DEAR MR. MINISTER:

AS YOU KNOW, SECRETARY BROWN IS INTENSELY INTERESTED
IN THE TANK GUN ISSUE. UNFORTUNATELY, HE IS OUT OF
TOWN TODAY AND CANNOT ATTEND PERSONALLY TO THIS URGENT
MATTER. IN HIS ABSENCE HE HAS ASKED ME TO WRITE DIRECTLY
TO YOU.

I HAVE BEEN FULLY INFORMED OF THE RECENT DISCUSSIONS
ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF POINTS FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATION.
WHILE WE CONTINUE TO HOPE THAT OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS
CAN REACH AN AGREEMENT, SECRETARY BROWN AND I BELIEVE

OUR DIFFERENCES OVER THE EXPORT LICENSE ARRANGEMENTS
NEED FURTHER DIRECT DISCUSSION. THE LONG-TERM
IMPORTANCE OF THIS DECISION, TOGETHER WITH THE URGENT
NEED TO ACHIEVE COMPLETE AGREEMENT HAVE CONVINCED US
THAT MY FURTHER PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT NOW IS WARRANTED.

THEREFORE, I AM WRITING TO ENCOURAGE YOU TO ARRANGE
FOR TALKS TO RESUME IN WASHINGTON THIS WEEK.
RHEINMETALL'S SUPPORT TO THESE TALKS WOULD APPEAR USEFUL,
GIVEN YOUR POSITION THAT ANY FUTURE EXPORT LICENSE
MUST BE OBTAINED FROM THEM.

I SINCERELY HOPE THAT TOGETHER WE CAN CONTINUE THE
MOMENTUM WE NOW HAVE TOWARD FURTHERING THE OBJECTIVES
OF NATO COOPERATION IN THIS IMPORTANT MATTER.

WITH WARM REGARDS,

CLIFFORD L. ALEXANDER, JR.

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END TEXT.

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Message Attributes

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